

In addition to changing the reporting time of SIP recipients I strongly believe changes need to be made in regards to both midshipmen and commissionees that do not fulfill the program requirements. Currently state academy midshipmen who fail to complete the requirement are disenrolled from the program and a recommendation is passed to MARAD to order these individuals to Active Enlisted Service. For the last 10 years MARAD has made no attempt to accomplish this, in fact anytime CNET or this unit attempted to pursue this kind of action we were told MARAD did not have the time, nor cared to pursue this action. I have also proposed on several occasions that recoupment be ordered for these individuals, that also feel on deaf ears. Both due to the fact that the current MARAD contract does not allow for this and I am told it would take an act of congress to make this change. I think that commissionees who fail to meet your requirements should also be required to recoup.

The current age of applicants eligible to receive SIP is limited to 17-25, this should be changes to 17-31. Under this program the Navy can commission up to age 35. There are a lot of students who have come to me over the years, who have had prior service and would love to get a commission but at the same time are in need of the SIP money. These prior service applicants would be an asset of the Navy and the program.

Currently MARAD only allows applicants to take a leave of absence of 1 academic year and then they loose their SIP. There have been several midshipmen over the years who because of various reasons have had to take a leave of absence for over a year and then returned to school and would have liked to continue receiving SIP and complete their contract requirements, but since they were not allowed to continue receiving SIP, they were dropped from the program. This was always done with the knowledge of MARAD.